

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01101 191712Z

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TAGS: SOPN, PO, AO

SUBJECT: MEDIA PRESSURE ON ANGOLA RECOGNITION

PORTUGUESE MEDIA, IN HEAVY REPORTING OF THIS WEEK'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES, ARE ADDING TO PRESSURE ON GOP FOR PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF LUANDA-BASED GOVERNMENT. LEFTIST "DIARIO DE LISBOA" WHICH HAS USED FRONT-PAGE LEAD HEADLINES IN FAVOR OF MPLA ALMOST DAILY FOR PAST WEEK, ON FEB 18 CARRIED RED-INK BANNER "URGENT: ANGOLA" ON REPORT OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING WHICH, PAPER SAID, HAD ANGOLA AS THE "FUNDAMENTAL ITEM ON THE AGENDA"; SAME PAPER HAS BEEN AMONG FEW TO EDITORIALIZE IN FAVOR OF MPLA RECOGNITION. LEAD HEADLINE IN COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" OF FEB 18 WAS "AHEAD OF PORTUGAL: FRANCE RECOGNIZES THE POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AND OPENS THE WAY FOR THE EEC." FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN FEB 19 "O SEculo" WAS "MPLA RECOGNITION MOVES AHEAD IN ALL THE WORLD." STILL, CENTER-RIGHT "O DIA" AND SOCIALIST "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" OF FEB 19 MOVED ANGOLA RECOGNITION COVERAGE INSIDE. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" FRONT-PAGE STORY EMPHASIZED CUBAN ACCUSATIONS ABOUT CHINESE INVOLVEMENTS IN ANGOLA AND CHINESE STATEMENTS THAT "SOVIET MERCENARIES" HAD MASSACRED THOUSANDS OF ANGOLANS. A PAGE-TWO ARTICLE SAME PAPER QUOTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF MAOIST MRPP PARTY AS OPPOSING GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA ON GROUNDS THAT "TO

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01101 191712Z

RECOGNIZE THIS GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ALLIED TO THE SOVIET SOCIAL-

IMPERIALISM WOULD BE TO LEGITIMIZE FUTURE AGGRESSION AGAINST
OUR OWN COUNTRY."
JORDAN

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Message Attributes

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